IMT Nuremberg Archives

H – 937

International Court of Justice

H0937 – 0001

H0937 - 0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

10 June 1946

COMMISSIONERS:

Colonel A.M.S. Neave
Captain Tubridy

THE GESTAPO

(THE COMMISSION CONVENED AT 1600 HOURS.)

WALTER ALBATH, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY COLONEL NEAVE:

Q What is your name?

A Walter Albath.

Q Will you raise your right hand and repeat this oath after me:

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath.)

COLONEL NEAVE: You may sit down. Dr. Weisgerber, will you tell us what this witness is supposed to prove? You may give us a translation of the written statement you have just given me.

DR. WEISGERBER: First I should like to ask this witness concerning the tasks, organizations and activities of the Inspector of the Security Police and SD and second, concerning his activities as to the supervision of the offices of the Gestapo subordinate to him.

COLONEL NEAVE: Can you just tell us what position this witness held?

H0937 - 0003

DR. WEISGERBER: The witness was a Gestapo Chief and later Inspector of Security Police and SD.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. WEISGERBER:

Q Will you give a short explanation or a short description of your vocational career?

A I studied law and in 1933 passed my Doctor's examination and the Referendar examination. After my training at a court I passed the examination for Judge's Assistant Assessor and for a short time was employed in the office of the Public Prosecutor. Then I applied for employment in the General Government Service, particularly in the Interior Administration Section. In 1935 I was accepted and ordered to report to the Police President's Office of Berlin. There I worked in the department of the President's Office. After a short time I was called to appear before the Vice President and was told that for a short time I was to help in the Gestapo Office in Berlin. My activity there was only to be a temporary one, to relieve the work there, the Vice-President informed me. This was not the case, however; the Gestapo retained me. I worked with the Gestapo Office in Berlin in 1935 and 1936. As I wished to get a better insight into the administrative office to which I had applied for work I asked them to re-transfer me to the administrative office or at least to give me an opportunity of training myself there. Then I received a nine months leave of absence for the administrative department. I worked with the Government Office in Potsdam and with the Office of the State Councillor, Landratsamt Itzehoe.

Q Were you then re-transferred to the Gestapo for further employment there?

H0937-0004

A After the nine months had expired I was recalled by the Gestapo and transferred to the Gestapo in Coblenz. That was in 1937-1938. In November 1938 I was transferred and became Chief of the Gestapo Office in Elbing. I remained there until the end of 1939 whereupon I became Chief of the Gestapo Office in Koenigsberg. I worked in Koenigsberg until the autumn of 1941 and was then transferred to Dusseldorf as Chief of the Gestapo Office there. I held this position until the autumn of 1943. I then became Inspector of Security Police and SD of Wehrkreis 6. I held this office until Germany's capitulation.

Q Were you a member of the Party or one of its affiliated organizations?

M. MONNERAY: May I ask what was the chief town of Wehrkreis 6?

WITNESS: There is no capital, as such. There were six government districts and the office was situated in Dusseldorf.

COLONEL NEAVE: Dr. Weisgerber, at the beginning I do not think it was said that he was Inspector of Security Police and SD specifically in Wehrkreis 6, was it? Just for the sake of the record is that the final position he held?

DR. WEISGERBER: Yes, that is the final position.

COLONEL NEAVE: That would not be clear in the record otherwise.

BY DR. WEISGERBER:

Q Your final office was, then, Inspector of Security Police and SD within Wehrkreis 6?

A Yes, that was my final position. I have not yet answered the question as to whether I was a Party Member.

Q Answer the question now that I asked you concerning your membership within the Party or its organizations.

A I have been a member of the Party since the 1st of April 1933

H0937 - 0005

and entered the SS in 1934. I held the rank of Standartenfuehrer in the SS at the end. My rank as an official was Regierungsdirektor.

Q You mentioned before that in 1936 you applied for employment outside of the Gestapo. Why did you do so?

A Because I had applied for employment within the Administration and up until this time had had no opportunity to work within the Administration and to become acquainted with the work there.

Q How large was the area that was subordinate to the Inspector of the Security Police and SD within Wehrkreis 6?

A Wehrkreis 6 comprised 6 Regierungs (Government Districts): Aix-la-Chapelle, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Arnsberg, Münster and Minden.

Q It was therefore identical with Military Wehrkreis 6?

A Yes.

Q Was there an Inspector's office in every Wehrkreis?

A Yes there were such offices in all Wehrkreis'; during the final months of the war, however, a number of these offices were changed into offices of Befehlshaber (Commandant Offices.)

Q When was the institution of an Inspector of Security Police and SD, as such, created and for what reasons?

A As far as I remember in the year 1936.

Q What was the reason for creating this Inspectorate?

A The reason was to be found in the general re-organization of the German Police in general. Just the same as there were commandant inspectors of the ordinary police there now were to be created inspectors for the Security Police. There really was no urgent official necessity for this creation. Up to this time there had been Gestapo Head Offices and Criminal Police Head Offices or Central Offices and SD Offices. These offices

H0937-0006

did their common work (mutual work) within the scope of one Wehrkreis I might say. But as Heydrich wanted to create the institution of the Inspectorate of Security Police, similar to the Inspector of the Ordinary Police, the Inspectors of the Security Police were created. The first vacancies in these offices were filled by members of the SD. The location of these offices was usually in the same building as the Offices of the SD Oberabschnitt (the SD Central Bureau.) The personnel of the SD Oberabschnitt was usually also taken over by this new officer.

COLONEL NEAVE: Excuse me but I would like to interrupt for a moment. Dr. Weisgerber, can you tell me briefly how this witness's description of the organization of the Gestapo in Wehrkreis 6 relates to Paragraph 6 (1) of the Order of March 13? I would draw your attention to the wording of that - " whether the Organization charged consisted of an aggregation of persons sharing a general common purpose to engage in activities defined as criminal under Article 6 of the Charter, " - and here is what seems to me to be important -- " and in this connection what the aims etc. etc. of the Organization were" Now from what you said you were going to have the witness describe the tasks and organization of the Inspector of Police and SD in Wehrkreis 6. (I said previously of the Gestapo but I meant Police and SD) How far did these activities relate to activity defined as criminal under Article 6 of the Charter? I think we might shorten the time by hearing that now.

DRE. WEISGERBER: The reason here is to clarify which offices and which persons were in connection with the Gestapo. After the questions of organization have been clarified I shall turn to the State Police activities as such and witness's testimony is to prove whether this activity was criminal activity or not.

5

H0937-0007

COLONEL NEAVE: Well I think you should have said that in the first place because I had the impression you were going to describe the activities and the supervision of the Gestapo Offices subordinate to the Inspectorate of Police and SD by themselves. and not in this latter connection.

DR. WEISGERBER. Yes, he is to testify to this by reason of the positions that he held and of course it is clear that because of the positions that he held his knowledge is also overlapping here and additional.

COLONEL NEAVE: Well, let us continue this description provided it is going to relate to what is defined in the Order -- activity defined as criminal under Article 6 of the Charter. We don't want activities described ~~their own~~. independently of this definition.

DR. WEISGERBER: In order to make the questions that I am going to ask later understandable, I would first have to ask the witness to testify as to the activities of his Wehrkreis.

COLONEL NEAVE: I agree, as long as we are clear on the point that you are eventually going to ~~infer~~ show how far these activities related to activity defined as criminal under Article 6 of the Charter.

DR. WEISGERBER: Yes.

BY DR. WEISGERBER:

Q What were your tasks as Inspector of the Security Police and SD within Wehrkreis 6?

A I had the general inspection of the Offices of the Gestapo, of the Criminal Police and the Security Police and SD. There was a service regulation for the inspectors regulating their tasks. Within the scope of this general service inspection I was able to give suggestions for the work in general but I had no jurisdiction concerning these offices. My office was different from that of a Befehlshaber (Commandant.) I was to see to it that the

H0937-0008

offices subordinate to me cooperated properly, did not overlap in their scope, and to help to remove difficulties that Chiefs of offices had with higher authorities and officials in case the heads of offices themselves were not able to do so. I also was the political consultant of the Senior President who belonged to the Staff of the Higher SS and Police Leader within Wehrkreis 6.

Q To whom was the Inspector of the Security Police and SD within Wehrkreis 6 personally and as to his work sub-ordinated?

A To the Reichs Main Security Office on the one hand and to the Higher SS and Police Leader of Wehrkreis 6 and to the Chief Senior President. I am sorry I have to make a correction. I was not the political consultant of the Senior President. I just had to report to him periodically. I confused this with the office I held as Chief of the Gestapo Office.

Q Did you also receive orders from the Gauleiter and his subordinate offices?

A I received no orders from the Gauleiter as an Inspector. In their capacity as Reich Defense Commissars the Gauleiter were able to issue orders to the Gestapo Offices. I do not know whether I mentioned it or not but the Higher SS and Police Leader was also able to issue orders to me.

Q Was there any possibility of your not carrying out orders of the Higher SS and Police Leader?

A If I received an order from a Higher SS and Police Leader of which I did not approve I was able to report to the Reich Main Security Office and ask for a decision there. This was changed in September of 1944. At that time the Higher SS and Police Leader received authority from Himmler that made him responsible for public safety and security within his Wehrkreis

H0937 - 0009

and thus gave him all necessary powers in this respect. From this time forward the Higher SS and Police Leader was practically independent of the Reich Main Security Office and could issue orders to all offices subordinate to him in his Wehrkreis as he saw fit.

Q Did you also receive orders from Amt 4?

A No. I did not receive any orders from Amt 4 for execution. If I received any they were only for my information and this did not always happen. It chanced that once in a while the registration office in Amt 4 forgot to send such information copies.

Q You testified before that the majority of your personnel was given you from SD personnel. Does that mean that the main stress, the main weight of the work carried on there was work that concerned either Criminal Police activities or Security Police activities or SD activities?

A My activities had to concern itself with all three.

Q Was the Office of the Inspector a part of the Party or was it a police office?

A It was a pure State organization and this is shown by the fact that it was built up according to the orders and jurisdiction of the Ordinary Police.

Q Your office then had under its jurisdiction the State Police Central Bureaus and the State Police offices as you mentioned before, six in all?

A That is not quite correct. Because of a scarcity of personnel several State Police Offices were changed into liaison offices within the course of time. When I took up office there were the following State Police Offices: Cologne, Dusseldorf, Münster, Dortmund. Besides these there were 7 criminal Police Offices and 4 SD Sectors.

H0937-0010

7Q How was the activity of the State Police Office supervised?

A The State Police Offices were instructed to inform me of all important events. Furthermore, I received reports - the same reports as sent to the Reich Main Security Office - but there were lapses in these reports. It was left to the opinion of the head of the Office whether he wanted to inform me or not. This same thing is true of the Criminal Police and the SD. In the course of time I more and more insistently demanded reports that had no lapses in them.

Q Did you know of the personnel of which Gestapo Offices were comprised?

A Yes, in the most essential parts.

Q The Prosecution maintains that the membership within the SD was in general a voluntary one. What can you say about this fact concerning your Gestapo Offices.

A In times of peace as far as officials or Civil Servants were concerned there was no aspect of voluntariness. The Civil Servants had been members of the Security Police, the Political Police, the Criminal Police and the Protective Police and were transferred to the Gestapo. In the whole course of my activities I met only two officials who had voluntarily become members of the Gestapo who had formerly been of the Security Police or State Police. As far as employees were concerned it was a little different, at any rate until the outbreak of War. The employees usually chose their employment within the Gestapo. They were employed in the technical or simple office tasks. In the course of the war the number of the employed became larger as a large number of Civil Servants had been transferred to the Occupied Territories. But these male employees no longer entered the Gestapo voluntarily but had been sent to the offices through the Employment Bureaus and the Labor Bureaus.

H0937-0011

Q Were those people who had been conscripted for service in the Gestapo the so called "Notdienstverpflichtete", also used in executive matters within the Gestapo?

A Principally not. They were used for very simple tasks, such as forming of cordons when search parties were carried through, or as guards. I don't believe they received any identification tags and also no arms.

Q What can you testify as to the Gestapo members of ~~xxxx~~ offices under your jurisdiction concerning membership within the NSDAP and its affiliated organizations?

A As for the men who had been commandeered to the Gestapo, relatively few were members of the Party but the Reich Main Security Office saw to it that a large number of party members were transferred, for one reason so as to enable the transfer into the SS, for which Party membership was compulsory. As far as membership in the SS was concerned the number was less than that of the Party members. Here too the Reich Main Security Office urged as many as possible to enter the SS but during the war the applications for membership within the SS were worked on very slowly in the Racial and Settlement Bureau. One might say that within these offices the leading officials, and leading employees were members of the SS but of the lower employees only a few of them were members. Most ~~of~~ all of them received the rank corresponding to the coordinating order.

COLONEL NEAVE: Would that be a good moment to adjourn?

DR. WEISGERBER: Yes.

COLONEL NEAVE: I have one announcement to make. I should like the cooperation of defense counsel in not making too many changes in the list of witnesses. I quite realize that under the Order of March 13 they are entitled to go and visit camps but during their absence would it not

H0937 - 0012

be possible to arrange for somebody to represent them here for the examination of witnesses? Certainly it would be easier to keep the time-table in order. Would you discuss that with your colleagues please? Next week it is hoped to run a second Commission, subject to the arrival of the necessary interpreting staff and we shall also take the witnesses for the General Staff next week.

(The Commission adjourned at 1700 hours.)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of WALTER ALBATH, taken on 10 June 1946.

Mabel A. Lesser
Reporter (pp.)

Reporter (pp.)

Reporter (pp.)

CERTIFIED TO:

Commissioner

Commissioner

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

10 June, 1946.

COMMISSIONERS:

Colonel A.M.S. Neave
Captain Tubridy.

THE GESTAPO

(THE COMMISSION CONVENED AT 1600 HOURS.)

WALTER ALBATH, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY COLONEL NEAVE:

Q. What is your name?

A. Walter Albath.

Q. Will you raise your right hand and repeat this oath after me:

I swear by God, the Almight and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath.)

COLONEL NEAVE: You may sit down. Dr. Weisgerber, will you tell us what this witness is supposed to prove? You may give us a translation of the written statement you have just given me.

DR. WEISGERBER: First I should like to ask this witness concerning the tasks, organizations and activities of the Inspector of the Security Police and SD and second, concerning his activities as to the supervision of the offices of the Gestapo subordinate to him.

COLONEL NEAVE: Can you just tell us what position this witness held?

DR. WEISGERBERG: The witness was a Gestapo Chief and later Inspector of Security Police and SD.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. WEISGERBER:

Q. Will you give a short explanation of a short description of your vocational career?

H0937-0013

A. I studied law and in 1933 passed my Doctors' examination and the Referendar examination. After my training at a court I passed the examination for Judge's Assistant Assessor and for a short time was employed in the office of the Public Prosecutor. Then I applied for employment in the General Government Service, particularly in the Interior Administration Section. In 1935 I was accepted and ordered to report to the Police President's Office of Berlin. There I worked in the department of the President's Office. After a short time I was called to appear before the Vice President and was told that for a short time I was to help in the Gestapo Office in Berlin. My activity there was only to be a temporary one, to relieve the work there, the Vice-President informed me. This was not the case, however; the Gestapo retained me. I worked with the Gestapo Office in Berlin in 1935 and 1936. As I wished to get a better insight into the administrative office to which I had applied for work I asked them to re-transfer me to the administrative office or at least to give me an opportunity of training myself there. Then I received a nine months leave of absence for the administrative department. I worked with the Government Office in Potsdam and with the Office of the State Councillor, Landratsamt Itzehoe.

Q. Were you then re-transferred to the Gestapo for further employment there?

A. After the nine months had expired I was recalled by the Gestapo and transferred to the Gestapo in Coblenz. That was in 1937-1938. In November 1938 I was transferred and became Chief of the Gestapo Office in Elbing. I remained there until the end of 1939 whereupon I became Chief of the Gestapo Office in Koenigsberg. I worked in Koenigsberg until the autumn of 1941 and was then transferred to Dusseldorf as Chief of the Gestapo Office there. I held this position until the autumn of 1943. I then became Inspector of Security Police and SD of Wehrkreis 6. I held this office until Germany's capitulation.

Q. Were you a member of the Party or one of its affiliated organizations?

H0937-0014

M. MONNERAY: May I ask what was the chief town of Wehrkreis 6?

WITNESS: There is no capital, as such. There were six government districts and the office was situated in Dusseldorf.

COLONEL NEAVE: Dr. Weisgerber, at the beginning I do not think it was said that he was Inspector of Security Police and SD specifically in Wehrkreis 6, was it? Just for the sake of the record is that the final position held?

DR. WEISGERBER: Yes, that is the final position.

COLONEL NEAVE: That would not be clear in the record otherwise.

BY DR. WEISGERBER:

Q. Your final office was, then, Inspector of Security Police and SD within Wehrkreis 6?

A. Yes, that was my final position. I have not yet answered the question as to whether I was a Party Member.

Q. Answer the question now that I asked you concerning your membership within the Party or its organizations.

A. I have been a member of the Party since the 1st of April 1933

H0937 - 0015

H0937 - 0016

and entered the SS in 1934. I held the rank of Standartenfuehrer in the SS at the end. My rank as an official was Regierungsdirektor.

Q You mentioned before that in 1936 you applied for employment outside of the Gestapo. Why did you do so?

A Because I had applied for employment within the Administration and up until this time had had no opportunity to work within the Administration and to become acquainted with the work there.

Q How large was the area that was subordinate to the Inspector of the Security Police and SD within Wehrkreis 6?

A Wehrkreis 6 comprised 6 Regierungs (Government Districts): Aix-la-Chapelle, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Arnsberg, Münster and Minden.

Q It was therefore identical with Military Wehrkreis 6?

A Yes.

Q Was there an Inspector's office in every Wehrkreis?

A Yes, there were such offices in all Wehrkreis; during the final months of the war, however, a number of these offices were changed into offices of Befehlshaber (Commandant Offices).

Q When was the institution of an Inspector of Security Police and SD, as such, created and for what reasons?

A As far as I remember in the year 1936.

Q What was the reason for creating this Inspectorate?

A The reason was to be found in the general reorganization of the German Police in general. Just the same as there were commandant inspectors of the ordinary police there now were to be created inspectors for the Security Police. There really was no urgent official necessity for this creation. Up to this time there had been Gestapo Head Offices and Criminal Police Head Offices or Central Offices and SD Offices. These offices did the common work (mutual work) within the scope of one Wehrkreis I might say. But as Heydrich wanted to create the institution of the Inspectorate of Security Police, similar to the Inspector of the Ordinary Police, the Inspectors of the Security Police were created. The first vacancies in these offices were filled by members of the SD. The location of these offices was usually in the same building as the Offices of the SD Oberabschnitt (the SD Central Bureau). The personnel of the SD Oberabschnitt was usually taken

H0937-0017

over by this new officer.

COLONEL NEAVE: Excuse but I would like to interrupt for a moment. Dr. Weisgerber, can you tell me briefly how this witness's description of the organization of the Gestapo in Wehrkreis 6 relates to Paragraph 6(1) of the Order of March 13? I would draw your attention to the wording of that -- "whether the Organization charged consisted of an aggregation of persons sharing a general common purpose to engage in activities defined as criminal under Article 6 of the Charter," -- and here is whatseems to meto be important -- " and in this connection what the aims etc. etc. of the Organization were." Now from what you said you were going to have the witness describe the tasks and organization of the Inspector of Police and SD in Wehrkreis 6. (I said previously of the Gestapo but I meant Police and SD) How far did these activities relate to activity defined as criminal under Article 6 of the Charter? I think we might shorten the time by hearing that now.

DR. WEISGERBER: The reason here is to clarify which offices and which persons were in connection with the Gestapo. After the questions of organization have been clarified I shall turn to the State Police activities as such and witness's testimony is to prove whether this activity was criminal activity or not.

COLONEL NEAVE: Well, I think you should have said that in the first place because I had the impression you were going to describe the activities and the supervision of the Gestapo offices subordinate to the Inspectorate of Police and SD by themselves, and not in this latter connection.

DR. WEISGERBER: Yes, he is to testify to this by reason of the positions that he held and of course, it is clear that because of the positions that he held his knowledge is also overlapping here and additional.

COLONEL NEAVE: Well, let us continue this description provided it is going to relate to what is defined in the Order -- activity defined as criminal under Article 6 of the Charter. We don't want activities described independently of this definition.

DR. WEISGERBER: In order to make the questions that I am going to ask later understandable, I would first have to ask the witness to testify as to the activities of his Wehrkreis.

COLONEL NEAVE: I agree, as long as we are clear on the point that you are eventually going to show how far these activities related to activity defined as criminal under Article 6 of the Charter.

DR. WEISGERBER: Yes.

BY DR. WEISGERBER:

Q What were your tasks as Inspector of the Security Police and SD within Wehrkreis 6?

A I had the general inspection of the Offices of the Gestapo, of the Criminal Police and the Security Police and SD. There was a service regulation for the inspectors regulating their tasks. Within the scope of this general service inspection I was able to give suggestions for the work in general but I had no jurisdiction concerning these offices. My office was different from that of a Befehlshaber (Commandant). I was to see to it that the

H0937 - 0018

H0937 - 0019

offices subordinate to me cooperated properly, did not overlap in their scope, and to help to remove difficulties that Chiefs of offices had with higher authorities and officials in case the heads of offices themselves were not able to do so. I also was the political consultant of the Senior President who belonged to the Staff of the Higher SS and Police Leader within Wehrkreis 6.

Q To whom was the Inspector of the Security Police and SD within Wehrkreis 6 personally and as to his work subordinated?

A To the Reichs Main Security Office on the one hand and to the Higher SS and Police Leader of Wehrkreis 6 and to the Chief Senior President. I am sorry I have to make a correction. I was not the political consultant of the Senior President. I just had to report to him periodically. I confused this with the office I held as Chief of the Gestapo Office.

Q Did you also receive orders from the Gauleiter and his subordinate offices?

A I received no orders from the Gauleiter as an Inspector. In their capacity as Reich Defense Commissars the Gauleiter were able to issue orders to the Gestapo Offices. I do not knowwether I mentioned it or not but the Higher SS andPolice Leader was also able to issue orders to me.

Q Was there any possibility of your not carrying out orders of the Higher SS and Police Leader?

A If I received an order from a Higher SS and Police Leader of which I did not approve I was able to report to the Reich Main Security Office and ask for a decision there. This was changed in September of 1944. At that time the Higher SS and Police Leader received authority from Himmler that madd him responsible for public safety and security within his Wehrkreis and thus gave him all necessary powers in this respect. From this time forward the Higher SS and Police Leader was practically independent of the Reich Main Security Office and could issue orders to all offices subordinate to him in his Wehrkreis as he saw fit.

Q Did you also receive orders from Amt 4?

A No. I did not receive any orders from Amt 4 for execution. If I received any they were only for my information and this did not always happen.

It chanced that once in a while the registration office in Amt 4 forgot to send such information copies.

Q You testified before that the majority of your personnel was given you from SD personnel. Does that mean that the main stress, the main weight of the work carried on there was work that concerned either Criminal Police activities or Security Police activities or SD activities?

A My activities had to concern itself with all three.

Q Was the Office of the Inspector a part of the Party or was it a police office?

A It was a pure state organization and this is shown by the fact that it was built up according to the orders and jurisdiction of the Ordinary Police.

Q Your office then had under its jurisdiction the State Police, Central Bureaus and the State Police offices as you mentioned before, six in all?

A That is not quite correct. Because of a security of personnel several State Police Offices were changed into liaison offices within the course of time. When I took up office there were the following State Police Offices; Cologne, Dusseldorf, Münster, Dortmund. Besides these there were 7 criminal Police Offices and 4 SD Sectors.

H0937-0020

Q How was the activity of the State Police Office supervised?

A The State Police Offices were instructed to inform me of all important events. Furthermore, I received reports - the duplicates same reports as sent to the Reich Main Security Office - but there were lapses in these reports. It was left to the opinion of the head of the Office whether he wanted to inform me or not. This same thing is true of the Criminal Police and the SD. In the course of time I more and more insistently demanded reports that had no lapses in them. became more insistent

Q Did you know of the personnel of which the Gestapo Offices were comprised?

A Yes, in the most essential parts.

Q The Prosecution maintains that the membership within the SD was in general a voluntary one. What can you say about this fact concerning your Gestapo Offices.

A In times of peace as far as officials or Civil Servants were concerned there was no aspect of voluntariness. The Civil Servants had been members of the Security Police, the Political Police, the Criminal Police and the Protective Police and were transferred to the Gestapo. In the whole course of my activities I met only two officials who had voluntarily become members of the Gestapo who had formerely been of the Security Police or State Police. As far as employees were concerned it was a little different, at any rate until the outbreak of war. The employees usually chose their employment within the Gestapo. They were employed in the technical or simple office tasks. In the course of the war the number of the employed became larger as a large number of Civil Servants had been transferred to the Occupied Territories. But these male employees no longer entered the Gestapo voluntarily but had been sent to the offices through the Employment Bureau

Q Were those people who had been conscripted for service in the Gestapo the so-called "Notdienstverpflichteten", also used in executive matters within the Gestapo?

A Principally not. They were used for very simple tasks, such as forming of cordons when search parties were carried through, or as guards. I don't believe they received any identification tags and also no arms.

Q. What can you testify as to the Gestapo members of offices under your jurisdiction concerning membership within the NSDAP and its affiliated organizations?

A. As for the men who had been commandeered to the Gestapo, relatively few were members of the Party but the Reich Main Security Office saw to it that a

H0937-0021

large number of party members were transferred, for one reason so as to enable the transfer into the SS, for which Party membership was compulsory. As far as membership in the SS was concerned the number was less than that of the Party members. Here too the Reich Main Security Office urged as many as possible to enter the SS but during the war the applications for membership within the SS were worked on very slowly in the Racial and Settlement Bureau. One might say that within these offices the leading officials, and leading employees were members of the SS but of the lower employees only a few of them were members. Most all of them received the r[illegible] corresponding to the co-ordinating order.

COLONEL NEAVE: Would that be a good moment to adjourn ?

DR. WEISGERBER: Yes.

COLONEL NEAVE: I have one announcement to make. I should like the co-operation of defense counsel in not making too many changes in the list of witnesses. I quite realize that under the Order of March 13 they are entitled to go and visit camps but during their absence would it not be possible to arrange for somebody to represent them here for the examination of witnesses? Certainly it would be easier to keep the time-table in order. Would you discuss that with your colleagues please? Next week it is hoped to run a second Commission, subject to the arrival of the necessary interpreting staff and we shall also take the witnesses for the General Staff next week.

(The Commission adjourned at 1700 hours).

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of WALTER ALBATH, taken on 10 June 1946.

Mabel A. Lesser
Reporter (pp

CERTIFIED TO:

A.M. Neave, Lt. Col.
Commissioner

H0937 - 0022